

## **Simply Nature Play**

Remember when you had hours of fun simply playing in a sand pit or dirt pile? Your toys were sticks, rocks, and cups. You made mud pies, truck lanes, and deep holes in the sand. You got dirty, but you had the time of your life.

The Nature Center wants kids to experience this good, old fashion fun in our new Nature Play area. Just below the Learning Center you will see a bright ladybug gate on a very cool twig fence, and then you have to look for the secret tunnel entrance. Designed by Tara Armistead and funded by memorial contributions for her father, Dr. William Crenshaw, this exciting new play area includes a cedar wood playhouse, a stone wall in one corner, 2 dirt piles one of which has a slide on it where kids can slide into a huge sand pit next to a huge dirt pit. Plus, (and this is the most fun part) there is a spigot that funnels water into the dirt! Mud pies anyone?

We have much more planned including a seesaw, teepee, planting beds, a winding path in the meadow and I am sure things we have not yet thought of for kids to simply play in nature.

***Deb Beazley, naturalist***